

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

FRANKLYN DEVON PRILLERMAN

Plaintiff

CIVIL ACTION NO.

v.

13-1414

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, ET AL.,

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendant

**FILED**

FEB - 9 2016

MICHAEL E. KUNZ, Clerk  
By \_\_\_\_\_ Dep. Clerk

**RESPONSE TO AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES OF CORRECTION OFFICER SYLVIA MELTON**

**1. Defendant asserts the Plaintiff's claims, in whole or in part, fail to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.**

Answer: Section 1983 provides a cause of action against persons acting under color of law who have violated rights guaranteed by the Constitution. See Buckley v. City of Reading, 66 F.3d 188, 190 (9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, 1995); Demsey v. Kupperman, 755 F.2d 1139, 1146 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1984). Punitive damages are available under Section 1983. See Pac. Mut. Life ins. Co. v. Haslip, 499 U.S. 1, 17 (1991); Kentucky v. Graham, 473 U.S. 159, 167 n.13 (1985); Danq v. Cross, 422 F.3d 800, 807 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2005); Punitive damages are available even when the plaintiff is unable to show compensable injury. See Smith v. Wade, 461 U.S. 30, 55 n.21 (1983); Mendez v. County of San Bernadino, 540 F.3d 1109, 1120 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir 2008)

**2. Defendant asserts the Plaintiff's claims are barred by the doctrine of qualified immunity because, at all times material hereto, the Defendant was carrying out his duties in a proper and lawful manner and in exercise of good faith**

Answer: Whether the defendant violated a constitutional right and whether the right was clearly established at the time of the violation are pure legal questions for the Court. See Serrano v. Francis, 345 F.3d 1071, 1080 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir 2003); Martinez v. Stanford, 323 F.3d 1178, 1183 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir 2003); Kennedy, 439 F.3d at 1059-60 [explaining that whether a clearly established constitutional right was violated is an abstract issue of law relating to qualified immunity]. However, if a genuine issue of material fact exists that prevents a determination of qualified immunity at summary judgment, the case must proceed to trial." Serrano, 345 F.3d at 1077; see also Martinez, 323 F.3d at 1183-85 (holding that the district court

erred by granting summary judgment where there were genuine issues of material fact regarding the reasonableness inquiry of the second *Saucier* prong)

**3. Defendant asserts the Plaintiff's claims are barred , in part or in whole, by his failure to comply with the provisions of the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (PLRA), 42 U.S.C. section 1997e(a), including but not limited to, the provision requiring exhaustion of all administrative remedies before commencing a federal suit.**

Answer: Plaintiff did file a formal grievance stating his claims on 1/13/13 in accordance with procedures detailed in "inmate handbook". However, Plaintiff was transferred from the facility on same day of 1/13/13. The defendant's knew Plaintiff's whereabouts and could have responded to Plaintiff's grievance, but failed to do so. It was impossible for Plaintiff to appeal a non-response on the part of the Defendants. As a result Plaintiff has satisfied the "exhaustion of administrative remedies" as required by PLRA. See *Taylor v. Barrett* 105 Supp 2d 483. The PLRA requires exhaustion only of those administrative remedies "as are available," the PLRA does not require exhaustion when circumstances render administrative remedies "effectively unavailable" *Nunez*, 591 F.3d at 1223-26 (holding that *Nunez's* failure to timely exhaust his administrative remedies was excused because he took reasonable and appropriate steps to exhaust claims and was precluded from exhausting not through his own fault but by the warden's mistake) *Sapp*, 623 F.3d at 822-23

Respectfully submitted:



Frank Prillerman

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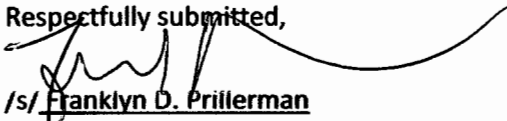
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Franklyn Prillerman, do hereby certify that on this date a correct copy of Plaintiff's Response to Affirmative Defenses was sent via first class mail to:

Kristen Davis  
City of Philadelphia Law Department  
Civil Rights Unit  
1515 Arch St, 14<sup>th</sup> fl  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Date: February 4, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

  
/s/ Franklyn D. Prillerman

123 E. Pomona St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19144

